

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 32 has been added. Claims 1-32 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,990), in view of Behl (U.S. Patent No. 6,319,116), and Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0118285).

The Office Action asserts that McDonald fails to disclose the blowing unit and the filtering unit are slidably insertable and removable from the cabinet (10). However the Office Action asserts that Behl discloses a filter (30) is positioned at the door of the blowing unit or fan (26) and the fan(26) with filter (30) are slidably insertable and removable from the cabinet(10). Furthermore the Office Action asserts that Kim et al. disclose an air purifier having a multilayered filtration including filters (302, 304, 306, 308, 310, col. 2, paragraph 0021) including an electrostatic filter (306) and a metal filter (308) with two metal nets having meshes.

By way of review, Behl discloses that "A hard disk drive docking adapter includes a rack and a slide with an air filter, an air filter cover and fans. The slide removably mounts a hard disk drive, or memory storage device in the rack" (col. 1, lines 43-50). As noted above, Behl discloses that a slide removably mounts a hard disk drive or memory storage device in the rack but fails to disclose "wherein the blowing unit and the filtering unit are separately slidably insertable and removable from the cabinet" as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore Behl discloses that "the air filter mounts on the door. The air filter cover holds the air filter" (col.1, lines 58-59). In addition, FIGS 1-3 clearly shows that a filter (31) attached to the door (24) but fails to disclose that "...the filter unit are separately slidably insertable and removable from the cabinet" as recited in claim 1.

In addition, as noted by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, it is noted that Kim et al. was commonly owned with the instant application at the time the invention of the instant application was made. Under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), "[s]ubject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." MPEP 2146, EXAMINATION

GUIDELINES FOR 35 U.S.C. 102(E), AS AMENDED BY THE AMERICAN INVENTORS PROTECTION ACT OF 1999, AND FURTHER AMENDED BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2002, AND 35 U.S.C. 102(G), 1266 OG 77 (January 14, 2003). As such, it is respectfully submitted that Kim et al. is not available as prior art for use in an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that none of the McDonald, Behl or Kim et al. recited art, separately or combined, teach or suggest the operation unit as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, are earnestly solicited.

In addition, for at least a similar rationale, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-10 and 12-31 are also in proper condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIM:

Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons stated above in the sections regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, new claim 32 patentably distinguish over the cited art, either alone or in combination, and should be allowable.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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